



NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release:
March 23, 2012
Release No. 032312-01

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Soo Locks to open early for 2012 shipping season

DETROIT – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit District, announces the Soo Locks in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., will open at Noon on Saturday, March 24 – **12 HOURS EARLIER THAN ORIGINALLY PLANNED** – marking the beginning of the Great Lakes shipping season.

The shipping community requested the Corps to open the locks early this year due to extremely mild weather and minimal ice conditions throughout the Great Lakes, which increased the likelihood of vessels arriving at the locks well ahead of their originally planned time. The Soo Locks closed Jan. 19 and underwent repairs and maintenance during the winter shutdown.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit District, maintains a navigation system that includes 94 harbors and the Great Lakes Connecting Channels that join lakes Superior, Michigan, Huron, and Erie.

For more details, contact Lynn Rose, Detroit District public affairs officer, 313-226-4680; or Kevin Sprague, area engineer at the Corps' Soo Area Office, 906-635-3464.

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